

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 306 - HB 433

March 17, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Codifies the pilot project for the establishment of convenient voting centers in Monroe, Wilson, and Williamson Counties, as a permanent authorization for any county in the state to enact. Establishes that any county forming convenient voting centers will do so in the same manner set forth under the pilot project.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Monroe, Wilson, and Williamson Counties were authorized to participate in the pilot project for local elections in 2019, and federal, state and local elections in 2020.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-3-307, the Coordinator of Elections is required to file a report following any election under the pilot program by January 31.
- According to the January 2021 report on the 2020 election cycle, each county that wants to establish voting centers will incur initial costs to set up the proper technology and mail notices to voters to identify the locations of the centers. Monroe and Williamson Counties utilized their county IT departments and students from local colleges to prepare the voting centers; Wilson County contracted a third-party IT consultant. Each county purchased routers and secure servers.
- If a county consolidates polling locations into voting centers, they will see a reduction in staffing needs. In 2020, Williamson County saved \$15,000 and Wilson County saved \$23,080 in expenses for poll officials. Monroe County did not reduce locations; therefore, no staffing expenses were reduced.
- It is assumed that counties choosing to implement convenient voting centers will do so if the savings over multiple years are equivalent to the initial costs of purchasing technology and mailing notices to voters; therefore, the net impact to state and local government is not significant.
- The Coordinator of Elections can continue to submit an annual report regarding the convenient voting centers within existing resources.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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